



My New Life: Don't Give Up

God has not Saved you to Leave you Alone and without Strength

FINISH...

What is something a lot of sports teams preach? FINISH; Play 4 quarters, play until the last out, play until the clock says zero, right? Finish strong, win in later periods, outlast your opponent. God has told us the same thing. I especially like to think of Hebrews Chapter 12 as an encouraging Christian coach. He tells us to not quit and to run with patience knowing the prize that we have waiting for us at the end.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOT EASY...

As a Christian, life will not be all butterflies and ice cream. You can honestly go from feeling like you and God are walking side by side, not worried about anything in this world, to the next day feeling like you are so far away from God that He will never be able to hear you or speak to you again. Know this truth though, God has not moved, he is unchanging. So if God doesn't move, What does that leave? We have more than likely moved away from him. It is because we let sin creep into our lives. It will alienate you. Satan tries to make us feel like we don't deserve to be saved or to be able to call ourselves Christians. Sometimes we could think that God is mad at us, and has thrown us away. Don't think it is just you, because all Christians go through this. Satan wants all of us to feel not good enough to share the good news of Jesus Christ. He wants to steal our joy. He wants to get our focus off of what Jesus has given us freely through His salvation. When you get down and feel inadequate to be called a Christian look unto the words of Life found in the Bible, and keep praying no matter what you feel like. Ephesians 2:8-10 is a great reminder to me of what salvation is and what is next in a saved person's life. Salvation is by the grace of God, through faith we have in Jesus. It is NOT of OURSELVES or of OUR WORKS, but rather it is the GIFT of GOD. We did not earn it, we cannot buy it, we cannot steal it, it is freely given but we must believe and trust in it. The next verse says we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. Now that we are saved, Jesus has a purpose for us all so keep going and don't give up!

Read John 17:20, who do you think Jesus is praying for?

In John 17:21-23, what did Jesus pray would happen?

In 1 John 1:9, what has God promised in this verse, and is there a limit given?

GOD SAYS...

Deuteronomy 31:8

And the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

John 17:20

I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

John 17:21-23

That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.